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Superintendent's Monthly Report

Working Together for Students

Working Together for Students



Welcome to the Superintendent's Report to the Board. Each month during the school year this report will celebrate student and school

success, and will highlight business and news at the regional level. This edition catches up on notable events in February, with a look ahead to March.

In February we celebrated African Heritage Month. This year's theme, *Passing the Torch*, recognizes past, present and future legacies of African Nova Scotians. Our Board was honoured to welcome members of the West Hants Middle School Afrocentric Drumming Group to the February 1 Regular Board Meeting. We thank Tasia MacLean, Julie Henao Murillo, Jahmelia Sampson, Milo Small and Calvin Upshaw (shown left to right in photo above) for sharing their cultural knowledge and passion for drumming.

AVRSB representatives were invited to the February meeting of the Annapolis County Council, held in the historic African Nova Scotian community of Inglewood in recognition of African Heritage Month. It was an honour to present information about our Board at this meeting, and to connect with members of the Inglewood community. Board Chair Lavinia Parrish Zwicker and Board Member Peter Cromwell brought greetings on behalf of the Board.

February 12 to 18 was Staff Appreciation Week, a time to recognize the



unique culture, skills and perspectives each staff member brings to their work in AVRSB. This diversity, and the shared culture of our Board and the Annapolis Valley, strengthens our ability to support student success. Thank you to all staff for sharing the best of yourself as we work together for students.

February 20 marked Heritage Day in Nova Scotia, this year honouring Mi'kmaq culture and heritage.

Other notable events in February included meetings with our community partners Nourish Nova Scotia and the Devour Food Film Fest co-founders, as well as the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA).

In March, my focus will be school visits. These visits provide a great opportunity to learn about our students, schools and communities.

Thank you, wela'lin and merci.

Roberta

Roberta Kubik, Superintendent

School Visits

February school visits took place at:

- Glooscap Elementary School
- Horton High School
- Wolfville School
- Somerset and District Elementary School



Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- March 1 Regular Board Meeting
- March 8 Kingston & District School French Immersion Information Session
- March 9 Annual African Youth Talent Show, 6 p.m., Horton Performance Centre
- March 13-17 March Break

African Youth Talent Show to Highlight Students in SSW, NSA Programs

The Annual African Youth Talent Show is taking place Thursday, March 9, following postponements due to winter weather in February.



Mr. Parker & Ms. Frampton's Choir at the 2016 African Youth Talent Show.

Organized by Student Support

Worker Lawrence Parker and Native Student Advisor Kelly Holleman, this all-ages event showcases the amazing talents and skills of students in the Student Support Worker and Native Student Advisor Programs.

The show features singing, instrumental music, dance, comedy, sports skills and more! Check it out on March 9, 6 p.m. at the Horton High School Performance Centre. All welcome, admission by freewill offering.

West Kings Family of Schools School Start Times Process Update



School community members at the West Kings School Start Time Public Consultation

In January and February, public consultations took place in the West Kings Family of Schools regarding school start times.

These consultations were part of a process that began with long-range planning exercises in 2010 and 2012, followed

by Board consideration in 2015 and 2016 of academic research and expert advice on school start times.

A consultation session was held at each school within the Family of Schools. Each session welcomed many participants and generated plenty of discussion. Feedback from these sessions and input received through an online survey conducted in January and February will now be analyzed by the AVRSB governing board for further consideration of start times in the West Kings Family of Schools.

Fire Drills

All schools have completed the required February fire drills. Thank you to all staff for ensuring these important drills are carried out in a safe and timely manner.



Wolfville, Bridgetown Construction Projects Progressing

Work is progressing on renovations at Wolfville School and the P-12 school construction project in Bridgetown.

In Bridgetown, the building is now weather-tight with completion of the "green roof". Services on Faye Road, the street leading to the building, are now complete and the street has been opened. Inside the building, work continues on mechanical and electrical systems.



New Bridgetown School in Fall 2016 (Albert Rice Photo)

Wolfville School renovations are on schedule and the new building section is now weather-tight. Work on mechanical and electrical systems is in the finishing stage, and there is now focus on interior finishes. At this point, the project is on track for substantial completion in June 2017.

Early Results from Regional French Immersion Program Survey

In November, public feedback on Regional French Immersion programs was collected via an online survey. 162 responses were received.

Preliminary observations of survey responses were shared at the Board's Education Committee in January 2017. Overall, respondents support the Regional French Immersion Program and appreciate the teachers and staff who deliver the program. Concerns focused on regional coverage, availability of spaces and high school course offerings. Further analysis of the survey data is ongoing.

AVRSB Welcomes New Director of Finance

At the end of January, AVRSB welcomed Jeanne Saulnier as Director of Finance. She brings many years of leadership experience to this role, most recently with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. She looks forward to connecting with staff as part of a collaborative approach.

We also wish outgoing Director of Finance Stuart Jamieson a happy and healthy retirement, following 38 years of dedicated service beginning with the Annapolis District School Board in 1978.